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The Role of the European Investment Bank in Promoting Foreign Trade by SMEs

Type of publication: Briefing
Date: 28-01-2016
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Settore di intervento: Commercio internazionale, Governance globale, Mercato interno e Unione doganale, Affari esteri
Parole chiave: Cipro, investimento estero, Banca interamerica di sviluppo, Grecia, Banca europea per gli investimenti, finanziamento dell’UE, investimento all’estero, assicurazione all'esportazione, piccole e medie imprese, finanziamento dell'impresa

Abstract: The EU's trade policy does not exist in a vacuum. On the one hand, it is affected by international standard and rulesetting. On the other hand, the EU is itself an influential actor shaping the international trade agenda by participating in the work of international organisations and fora. This short note focuses on the European Investment Bank (EIB).

Briefing EN

Il partenariato transatlantico su commercio e investimenti (TTIP): i negoziati procedono a rilento

Type of publication: Analisi approfondita
Date: 20-10-2015
Author: Elfriede BIERBRAUER
Settore di intervento: Ambiente, Cultura, Diritto internazionale pubblico, Trasporti, Commercio internazionale, Valutazione del diritto e delle politiche nella pratica, Mercato interno e Unione doganale, Agricoltura e sviluppo rurale, Diritto contrattuale, diritto commerciale e diritto societario, Turismo, Istruzione, Diritto UE: sistema e atti giuridici, Industria, Industria dei consumatori, Sviluppo e aiuti umanitari, Adozione della legislazione da parte del PE e del Consiglio, Sanità pubblica
Parole chiave: libero scambio, accordo di libero scambio, ostacolo non tariffario, garanzie degli investimenti, libera circolazione dei merci, accordo commerciale (UE), accesso al mercato

Abstract: The dieci tornate di negoziati sul partenariato transatlantico su commercio e investimenti (TTIP) svoltesi negli ultimi due anni hanno prodotto scarso risultato. Da quando sono stati avviati i colloqui nel giugno 2013, accompagnati da elevate aspettative, i negoziatori hanno evitato di affrontare questioni di sostanza o problemi complessi. Gli obiettivi politici del mandato dell'UE e le finalità espresse dal Parlamento europeo nella sua recente risoluzione sul TTIP, nonché gli obiettivi formulati dal Congresso degli Stati Uniti, come specificato nella normativa Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), sono chiari: tutte le parti interessate raccomandano l'abolizione delle tariffe e l'eliminazione degli ostacoli non tariffari al fine di liberalizzare ulteriormente i mercati transatlantici e di promuovere livelli più elevati di crescita e la creazione di posti di lavoro. All'inizio di ottobre 2015, le parti negoziali hanno finalmente presentato proposte aggiornate su come eliminare le tariffe. Le parti in questione dovranno altresì sottoporre offerte riguardante l'accesso ai mercati degli appalti pubblici e dovranno avviare le discussioni sul nuovo sistema giudiziario per la protezione degli investimenti, come proposto dal commissario al Commercio Cecilia Malmström il 16 settembre 2015. Il partenariato transpacifico (TPP), l'altro principale accordo commerciale che ha visto impegnati i negoziatori degli USA (in realtà in misura maggiore rispetto al TTIP), è stato concluso il 5 ottobre 2015. Se i negoziati concernenti il TTIP devono essere conclusi prima che il presidente degli Stati Uniti Barack Obama lasci la carica, il processo dovrà essere considerevolmente accelerato, al fine di evitare un'interruzione dei negoziati e il possibile avvio di una nuova presidenza statunitense con un approccio meno favorevole al libero scambio.

Analisi approfondita ES, DE, EN, FR, IT, NL

The TTIP’s Potential Impact on Developing Countries: A Review of Existing Literature and Selected Issues

Type of publication: Analisi approfondita
Date: 29-04-2015
Author: Manuel MANRIQUE GIL, Elfriede BIERBRAUER, Marika LERCH
Settore di intervento: Commercio internazionale, Sviluppo e aiuti umanitari
Parole chiave: scambio per gruppo di paesi, Stati Uniti, preferenze generalizzate, sospensione dei dazi doganali, paese in via di sviluppo, accordo di libero scambio, liberalizzazione degli scambi, scambio commerciale, studio d'impatto, conseguenza economica, negozio di accordi (UE), accordo commerciale (UE), geopolitica

Abstract: The position and concerns of developing countries have only belatedly entered the discussion over the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). While poor countries may gain much from the positive effects of the TTIP, their precarious positions means that they may be less able to react and adapt to negative consequences. The EU is required to assess the development effects of its policies, including trade policies, by the Lisbon Treaty. Although the shape and scope of the final TTIP agreement is not yet known, economic analyses have identified different ways in which it could affect developing countries and influence the global trading system. Several economic studies have also attempted to measure the possible outcomes for different countries and regions. While it appears that the negative impact of trade diversion and preference erosion is likely to be small, there may be notable exceptions, including risks to the position of some countries in international value chains. Proposals to address such negative consequences include concrete measures for affected countries, such as extending unilateral preferences and shaping the TTIP in such a way as to facilitate positive effects. Extending the principle of mutual recognition or equivalence to third parties and defining liberal rules of origin in the agreement are particularly important.

Analisi approfondita EN
Negotiations on the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) Concluded

The Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) between the EU and Canada, on which negotiations were concluded at the EU-Canada Summit in Ottawa on 26 September 2014, will be a ‘first’ in many areas. The agreement will be the EU’s first with another highly industrialised country to facilitate market access for goods, services and investment by abolishing almost all tariffs and reducing a wide array of non-tariff barriers. CETA is also the first agreement to have been negotiated with a sound chapter on investment protection, (including Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) provisions) – an area that is, since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, an EU competence. The agreement preserves the governments’ right to regulate in the public interest. The European Parliament will be asked to give its consent to this agreement and to the parallel Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) – a process that is likely to take two years. This will give the Parliament sufficient time to weigh potential public concerns – which today are focussed principally on trade and investment negotiations with the US, but may spill over onto this agreement with Canada.

Helping – or Not – European Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) Venture Abroad

Various EU initiatives to supporting the internationalisation of European SMEs fall short of the European Parliament’s expectations. Although independent evaluations of the European Business Centres in India, China and Thailand suggested that bold decisions were necessary, the European Commission has only adopted some changes to the measures. Using budget appropriations from the previous budget framework, the Commission plans to support the current structures until the end of their contracts – which have been extended in some cases. The Commission also plans to geographically extend its business support in third countries – also financed by the ICI+ programme. Under the EU’s budgetary procedure, the European Parliament has only oversight over the implementation of inefficient structures. As Member States require tailor-made support to turn-around declining exports, small and medium-sized enterprises should first be supported through the Member States, and then perhaps by the EU.
India's 2014 Legislative Elections: The Lack of Economic Miracles Lands the Congress Party on the Opposition Benches

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP): The US Congress's Positions

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The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP): The EU's Relationship with India and the Floundering Bilateral Trade Negotiations
The EU's Contribution to Member States' Services Promoting Foreign Trade and Investment: Value Added?

The decision of EU and US policy makers, announced in early February 2013, to launch negotiations on a ‘comprehensive, ambitious trade and investment agreement’ has been widely welcomed. The EU and the US are major economic partners, together generating about half of the world’s gross domestic product and almost one third of global trade. By eliminating customs duties and reducing non-tariff barriers, liberalising bilateral commercial relations further is expected to lead to sustainable economic growth and additional jobs on both sides of the Atlantic. The final report of the High-Level Working on Jobs and Growth (HLWG) defines the scope of future EU-US negotiations. Implementing the HLWG’s recommendations should lead to a better-integrated transatlantic marketplace, which Members of the European Parliament have been demanding for years. A far-reaching transatlantic agreement may have positive spillover effects regarding third countries — and notably emerging ones — and may help to restore the leadership that the EU and the US once enjoyed in international trade and investment matters. Given the complexity and the difficulties of some topics, especially in the field of agriculture, the negotiations will need the full support of both the European Parliament and the US Congress to be completed within the timeframe envisaged.

Ways and Means towards a Future EU-US Trade and Investment Agreement

The High-Level Working Group on Jobs and Growth (HLWG), established following the EU-US Summit in November 2011, has taken up its task of identifying synergies that could result from reducing or dismantling tariff and non-tariff barriers in transatlantic trade and investments. The European Commission's Directorate-General for Trade and the US Trade Representative (USTR) have also launched consultations amongst public and private stakeholder groups, with the aim of obtaining detailed information on which impediments to trade and investments are most acute and how they could be resolved. An interim report was published in June 2012. The final report of the HLWG, which should also contain recommendations for political leaders, is expected by the end of the year. The most far-reaching recommendation would be to begin negotiations on a transatlantic free trade and investment agreement. According to legislators on both sides of the Atlantic, the European Commission, EU Member States, the US government and business representatives, further liberalisation of trade and investments via a bilateral agreement would be generally welcomed. If the HLWG gives the go-ahead for bilateral negotiations, the devil will be in the details. Sticky technical barriers to trade exist, particularly in the field of agriculture, as do nontariff barriers, which are more difficult to overcome. However, the economic importance of the EU and the US to one another, their common values and mutual support of free trade should offer sufficient common ground for taking up the challenge.

The HLWG Report on a Future EU-US Trade and Investment Agreement - A Short Comment

The decision of EU and US policy makers, announced in early February 2013, to launch negotiations on a ‘comprehensive, ambitious trade and investment agreement’ has been widely welcomed. The EU and the US are major economic partners, together generating about half of the world’s gross domestic product and almost one third of global trade. By eliminating customs duties and reducing non-tariff barriers, liberalising bilateral commercial relations further is expected to lead to sustainable economic growth and additional jobs on both sides of the Atlantic. The final report of the High-Level Working on Jobs and Growth (HLWG) defines the scope of future EU-US negotiations. Implementing the HLWG’s recommendations should lead to a better-integrated transatlantic marketplace, which Members of the European Parliament have been demanding for years. A far-reaching transatlantic agreement may have positive spillover effects regarding third countries — and notably emerging ones — and may help to restore the leadership that the EU and the US once enjoyed in international trade and investment matters. Given the complexity and the difficulties of some topics, especially in the field of agriculture, the negotiations will need the full support of both the European Parliament and the US Congress to be completed within the timeframe envisaged.

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